Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A fluidized-bed gasification furnace utilizing a fluidized-bed reactor, said fluidized-bed gasification furnace comprising:

a fluidized bed portion for a fluidized medium, said fluidized bed portion having a fluidized bed floor portion at a bottom part thereof;

a discharge port provided in the vicinity of said fluidized bed floor portion for discharging the fluidized medium;

a fluidized medium discharge chute having a medium-receiving end and a medium-discharge end, said medium-receiving end being connected to said discharge port and said fluidized medium discharge chute extending downwardly from said medium-receiving end connected to said discharge port to said medium-discharge end disposed below said discharge port; and

a gas blow device provided below said fluidized medium discharge chute for blowing a gas into said medium-discharge end ~~an interior~~ of said fluidized medium discharge chute toward said medium-receiving end of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

2. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein a device for mechanically withdrawing the fluidized medium is provided in the vicinity of the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

3. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

4. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

5. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

6. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

7. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

8. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

9. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

10. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

11. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

12. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so

that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

13. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

14. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 5, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

16. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said fluidized-bed gasification furnace is in a form of a rectangle.

Claim 17 **(Canceled)**

18. **(New)** A fluidized-bed gasification furnace utilizing a fluidized-bed reactor, said fluidized-bed gasification furnace comprising:

a fluidized bed portion for a fluidized medium, said fluidized bed portion having a fluidized bed floor portion at a bottom part thereof;

a discharge port provided in the vicinity of said fluidized bed floor portion for discharging the fluidized medium;

a fluidized medium discharge chute connected to said discharge port and extending downwardly from said discharge port to below said discharge port;

a device for mechanically withdrawing the fluidized medium, said device being provided in the vicinity of the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute; and

a gas blow device for blowing a gas into an interior of said fluidized medium discharge chute, said gas blow device being provided below said device for mechanically withdrawing the fluidized medium.

19. **(New)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 18, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

20. **(New)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 18, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

21. **(New)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 18, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.